GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5231
ANSWERED ON:05.04.2017
Review of Cases of Violation
Verma Shri Anshul

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to reconstitute Inter-Ministerial Committee to review cases of violation in Broadcast media;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has invited suggestions/views from general public in this regard;
(d) if so, the details thereof;
(e) the shortcomings found in the functioning of Inter-Ministerial Committee; and
(f) the steps proposed to be taken to remove the said shortcomings?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING [COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]

(a) & (b): Content telecast on private satellite TV channels and transmitted/re-transmitted through the Cable TV network is regulated in terms of the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 framed thereunder. The Act does not provide for pre-censorship of any programme or advertisement telecast on such TV channels. However, all programmes and advertisements are required to be in conformity with the said Programme and Advertising Codes.

The Ministry has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (I&B) and comprising officers drawn from Ministries of Home Affairs, Defence, External Affairs, Law, Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare, Consumer Affairs, Information & Broadcasting and a representative from the industry in Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) to take cognizance suo-motu or look into specific complaints regarding violation of the Programme and Advertising Codes. The IMC functions in a recommendatory capacity. The final decision regarding penalties and its quantum is taken by the Ministry on the basis of the IMC recommendations.

There is no proposal to reconstitute the IMC to review cases of violation in broadcast media which already includes representatives from various Ministries concerned and the industry as indicated above.

(c) & (d): Does not arise.

(e) & (f): The existing provisions contained in the Programme & Advertising Codes and the existing mechanism are considered adequate to regulate content of private satellite TV channels. No shortcomings have been found in the functioning of the IMC.
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